

Toolbox Talk — Instructor Guide for Hair Stylists

WHMIS Topic Overview

Many chemicals used in hair salons can cause conditions ranging from minor skin irritation to serious injury and disease. If workers are expected to work with hazardous materials, their employer is required to inform them that the materials are hazardous and train the workers in their safe use.

All NT and NU workplaces that use materials identified as hazardous ("controlled products") by the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) are required to follow the WHMIS system. The system uses consistent labelling to help workers recognize hazardous materials. The system and labels provide specific information on handling, storing, disposing, and 1st aid procedures of hazardous materials.

Demonstration and **Discussion Topics**

Discuss hazardous materials to which hair stylists may be exposed, including hair dyes, permanent wave solutions, and cleaning agents.
Tour the shop with the students, pointing out these hazards.
Distribute the student handout.
Use the student handout as your discussion guide.
Explain what the WHMIS system is.
Discuss how the WHMIS system is designed to protect workers.
Explain what the WHMIS system is. Discuss how the WHMIS system is designed to protect workers. Review the list of 4 questions, reminding students that they need to understand safety issues before they start work, and that it is okay to ask questions if they don't understand something or they need a reminder.

THAVAKVIKMI HIVUGANAQNIT HUNAT TUHAGAKHAT HAVACUTAL (AKI) VI

"If workers are expected to work with hazardous materials, their employer is required to inform them that the materials are hazardous and train the workers in their safe use." Review and discuss the list of safety tips. ☐ **Emphasize** that good housekeeping and careful handling are mandatory. ☐ **Explain** the WHMIS labels and the meaning of each label. Make it real. Tell at least two stories of injuries from your experience, or use the following examples: • A young worker was washing sinks with a chemical cleaner that was unfamiliar to her. The chemical was corrosive, and was not properly diluted with water. She ended up with chemical burns on her hands and wrists. • A worker developed breathing problems after being exposed to a chemical found in a flat iron spray. The worker began to cough and had to be taken home by another coworker. Provide examples of the types of injuries and health problems that can occur because of exposure to hazardous materials (rashes, chemical burns, asthma and emphysema, and even cancer). Discuss the attitude that "it won't happen to me". Remind them that a hazardous material incident can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless. ☐ Encourage them to **ASK** questions.

Resources

☐ WHMIS at Work

Answer any questions or concerns they might have.

☐ Set a good example by working safely at all times.

www.worksafebc.com/publications/high resolution publications/assets/pdf/bk40.pdf